

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are amended; Claims 8 and 9 are added; and Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1, 2 and 4-7, and new Claims 8 and 9 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 which after final rejection permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment incorporates allowable subject matter into each of the pending independent claims, thus placing the present application in condition for formal allowance. No new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,076, hereinafter “Segura”) in view of Hsu et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0054807, hereinafter “Hsu”); and Claims 3 and 4 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, the subject matter of each of independent Claims 3 and 4 is incorporated to each of new and amended independent Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9. More specifically, Claims 1, 2 and 7 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 3; Claim 4 is amended to be in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 2; Claims 8 and 9 are newly

added, which correspond to previously pending Claims 1 and 7, and include the subject matter of Claim 4. Therefore, independent Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 are believed to be patentable over the applied references. Further, each of Claims 5 and 6 depend from either one of independent Claims 2 and 4, and are therefore also believed to be allowable over the applied references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

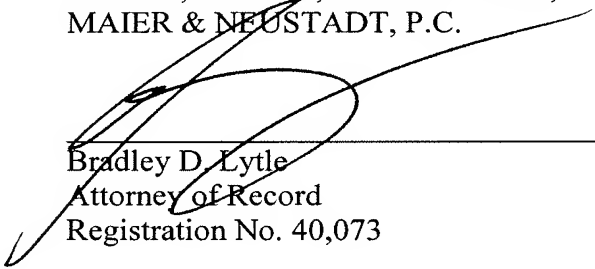
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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